

Our mission is to coalesce, inspire, and support the Head Start field as a leader in early childhood development and education.

2016 Head Start Foster Children Fact Sheet



148,912

Children under age five in foster care in the U.S.

17,672

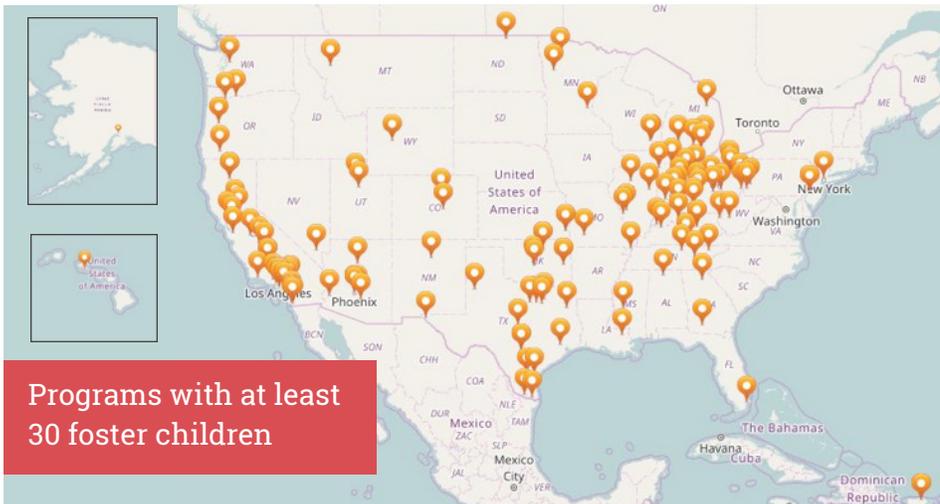
Head Start children in foster care

6,629

Early Head Start children in foster care

Giving children in foster care a Head Start...

Foster care is “24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the state agency has placement and care responsibility.” These vulnerable children are eligible for Head Start, regardless of family income.



Largest number of foster children served by Head Start

3,657 California

1,712 Texas

1,316 Ohio

1,107 Indiana

1,001 Pennsylvania

Highest percentage of foster children served by Head Start

6.6% Montana

5.9% Indiana

5.4% North Dakota

5.2% Wyoming

4.9% Alaska



“My daughter qualified for Early Head Start as a foster child. Our Home Visitor became my support person. I started taking better care of myself and my children... My family and I began attending the parent socials and meetings. I met other parents and we starting sharing stories and parenting tips. My support system grew. I started to help in the classroom and on the bus.”

Colleen T., South Dakota

Shasta Head Start Child Development, Inc.

Redding, California



Shasta Head Start frequently presents to state agencies, such as Child Protection Services, to ensure its services for foster children are well-known. The program also runs the “Connections Program” through its mental health department, offering prevention and intervention strategies useful for foster children and families. Partnerships within the community allow everyone to work together to reduce traumatic experiences and increase protective factors for children.

950 children served: 75 children in foster care

County of San Bernardino

San Bernardino, California



Head Start in San Bernardino has increased enrollment recently by establishing a memorandum of understanding with the county’s Children & Family Services department, which administers the foster care program. The program recently received national recognition for maintaining this critical referral service.

5,719 children served: 403 children in foster care

Family Services of Grant County

Moses Lake, Washington



Family Services social workers look for behavioral issues in children, such as exhaustion and aggression, to help identify children needing support. They employ mental health consultants to be a resource and work with foster parents to figure out what works to improve each child’s behavior in his or her own home .

331 children served: 33 children in foster care

About NHSA

The National Head Start Association is a nonprofit organization committed to the belief that every child, regardless of circumstances at birth, has the ability to succeed in life. NHSA is the voice for more than 1 million children, 200,000 staff and 1,600 Head Start grantees in the United States.

For more info, please contact us: go.nhsa.org/Contact.

For citations and other state fact sheets, please visit www.nhsa.org/Fact-Sheets



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